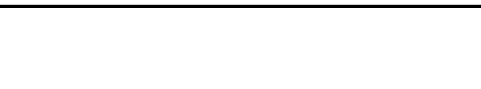15 January 1975

STAT        Colonel John R. Reitemeyer

Dear Colonel Reitemeyer:

It was a pleasure to hear from you again after so long a time. Marshal Dutra died on June 11 just this past year. He was 89.

Hank Piper, a former employee of yours who has been in Washington for a number of years now, says that you have retired as President of the Hartford Courant. He recalls that he had an opportunity to chat with you again a couple of years ago while vacationing in the Dominican Republic. I trust retirement agrees with you, but I am delighted to see that you retain your interest in thos pressing problems affecting our government and nation.

The problems in Chile are grievous indeed. Both the problems themselves and the circumstances which have precipitated them have existed in an atmosphere of misunderstanding which, until recently, seems each day to have been compounded. With respect to the role of the press in dispelling some of this, I was heartened to hear not long ago that General Pinochet had declared an end to prior censor- ship of the press in Chile. This must have been an encouraging development to your colleagues in the Inter-American Press Association. By chance the other day I had lunch with a Chilean official who informed me that the Junta has been making a concerted effort to ensure that no one does further violence to the principle and the exercise of fundamental human rights in Chile. The turmoil and disorder following the Junta's assumption of power in Chile has been overcome to the point where the current regime apparently is confident that it can guarantee such a situation and seems disposed to do so.

I am most grateful, Colonel Reitemeyer, to have the benefit of your observations and the encouragement of your kind remarks, as well as the pleasure of the memory of that incident from a less complex time.

Faithfully,

/s/ Vernon A. Walters

Vernon A. Walters
Lieutenant General, USA

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